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Rural District of Rugby.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1945,

BY

H. GIBBONS WARD, M.D., D.P.H.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

OF THE

Warwickshire Combined Districts.

Leamington Spa :

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July, 1946.

To the Rugby Rural District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Herewith the Report for 1945, this is the 27th Annual Report I have presented to you.

As instructed by the Ministry of Health, the Report is only a short statement of fact. The restrictions with respect to paper and printing still remain, and it will not be possible this time to give all the details of activities during the past year.

With many thanks for much kindness on the part of the members of the Council and my colleagues.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. GIBBONS WARD,
Medical Officer of Health.

Rugby Rural District.

A. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Population (estimated) Mid-year, 1945	...	...	16,920
Birth Rate	...	...	18.0
Still Births—Rate per 1,000 total births	...	...	19
Death Rate	...	...	11.2
Deaths from Diseases and Accidents of Pregnancy and Child-birth	{ From Sepsis ,, other causes		—
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—			
All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	33
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			37
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	—
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	—
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	1
,, ,, Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	1

Population.—Reference to Table II. will show that there has been an increase in population of 1,150 since 1939, but a decrease of 990 from the figure in 1941, when there were many people evacuated to the District.

Birth-Rate.—In 1945 the figure of 18.0 per 1,000 of the population was much higher than the average for the past 7 years, and compares favourably with that for England and Wales, viz., 16.1.

Death-Rate.—The rate of 11.2 per 1,000 was slightly below that for England and Wales, viz., 11.4.

Infant Mortality.—33 per 1,000 births, is well below the figure for the whole country, viz., 46.

B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT.

1. *Public Health Officers.*

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

L. R. NUTTING, Cert. S.I.B., A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.,
 Certificates of the R.S.I. for Meat and Other Foods
 Inspection, and also for Smoke Inspection.

Additional Sanitary Inspector :

Vacant since the 7th January, 1943.

J. M. BOSWELL, Cert. S.I.B. returned from service in the Fleet Air Arm, commenced 1st January, 1946.

Clerk :

P. G. ALLISON, returned from army, 1st October, 1945.

Temporary Clerk—Mrs. G. A. NUTTING.

Miss P. A. KETTLE from 12th November, 1945.

Surveyor :

D. G. McVINNE, M.I.M. & Cy.E.

Assistant :

M. M. DIXON, A.M.I.M. & Cy. E.

Public Analysts :

HILL & RIGBY, Birmingham.

Medical Officer of Health :

H. GIBBONS WARD, M.D., D.P.H.

3. *Laboratory Facilities.*—Bacteriological examinations by Birmingham University :—

	Positive.	Negative.	Total.
* Diphtheria ...	7	24	31
Enteric Fever	—	—	—
Tuberculosis	3	12	15
			46

* These numbers include swabs from the Joint Isolation Hospital at Harborough Magna.

C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

1. (i) WATER SUPPLY.—During 1945, 23 samples were taken from well supplies in the district ; 14 were chemically examined and 9 bacteriologically examined. The results were as follows :—

6	samples	were	classified	as	Safe	for	drinking.
12	„	„	„		Unsafe	„	
5	„	„	„		Suspicious	„	

In the course of the year 38 houses were connected to the water mains.

(i) HAS WATER SUPPLY BEEN SATISFACTORY IN (a) QUALITY, (b) IN QUANTITY.—Under (a) only 5 samples proved to be satisfactory and had the water sampling been more extensive I think the need for water mains extensions would have been emphasised. It is the Council's aim eventually to supply all their parishes with the mains water supply.

(b) We have had no complaints from any one place or group of houses alleging absence or shortage of water supplies. We did have a complaint from a small cottage adjoining a larger house due to an absence of water, but subsequent investigation proved that the source, which was a shallow well, was not yielding its usual supply. There is a water main in this village, but the cost of taking the supply to this cottage is excessive. The distance is approximately three quarters of a mile.

2. WHERE A PIPED SUPPLY, WHETHER BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS WERE MADE FOR (a) RAW WATER (b) TREATED WATER.—Piped supplies in this district are purchased in bulk from 3 adjoining Authorities, namely The City of Coventry, the Borough of Rugby, and the Bedworth Urban District Council. So far as I am aware these Authorities exercise control over their respective supplies at source and works and no doubt carry out the recommendations of the Ministry of Health governing water supplies.

This Authority realises the importance of check sampling the supplies, but as pointed out in previous reports shortage of staff has not enabled this to be done. With the return of our full staff we hope to carry out this work.

3. ANY ACTION TAKEN FOR CONTAMINATION.—Flushing of mains is periodically carried out. This is, of course in addition to any precautions taken by the supplying Authorities at their works.

4. PARTICULARS OF PROPORTION OF DWELLING HOUSES AND PROPORTION OF POPULATION SUPPLIED BY PUBLIC MAINS (a) DIRECT TO HOUSES, (b) BY MEANS OF STAND PIPES.—(a) The figures given in last year's report are approximately applicable to-day,* namely, under (a) 75% of the houses taking piped supplies have it directly over the sink; and (b) 25% are served by stand pipes.

25 of the 40 parishes in this district are served with a mains supply, this includes one parish that is not wholly served by the mains but negotiations are proceeding for the whole parish of Shilton to be served by a mains supply.

1. (ii) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—The Sanitary Inspector's Department made 141 visits in connection with drainage during 1945. In the various parishes the same method of sewage disposal continues as previously reported. It has not yet been possible to start upon the scheme of sewerage the whole of Clifton-on-Dunsmore although the plans are nearing completion. As previously reported several of the villages require sewage disposal schemes and the Council is faced with a big task.

2. (i) RIVERS AND STREAMS.—A close watch is maintained on water courses and particularly those near factories and forces establishments and I am glad to report that during 1945 no case arose necessitating any statutory action. Nevertheless, 66 visits were made to such water courses.

3. (ii) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—In accordance with our usual practice this is improved where ever possible and during the year 32 visits were made and improvements were recorded at 32 premises.

(ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING.—Many of the parishes are dealt with by direct labour, and it is the policy of the Council to extend this work. The main problem has been that of labour shortage, due to some extent to the availability of other more attractive employment. The position is, however, improving considerably. The extension of works of sewerage and the adoption of the water carriage system will improve the position greatly.

D. HOUSING.

Full particulars of the usual table have been compiled and are being kept for Record purposes.

General Observations.—My remarks under this heading in the 1943 and 1944 Reports are equally applicable to-day regarding the shortage of housing accommodation. The need for new houses is greater than ever, and the Council receive many applications for houses, some of which are cases of real hardship. Many temporary buildings are occupied in the District; under Defence Regulations 68AA and Circular 2156 we licence for six monthly periods 33 houses.

The Council applied for 500 prefabricated houses and were allotted 50; the sites are already chosen for them, none of these houses have as yet been received.

Permanent Housing.—A start has been made on these, 9 at Monks Kirby, 3 at Withybrook and 4 at Willoughby. Tenders have been invited for a further 42 houses.

E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) *Milk Supply.*—Hitherto we have always been fairly active as regards milk sampling, but owing to staff difficulties it was possible during the year to take only 4 samples for chemical analysis. 2 of these samples were unsatisfactory, the Public Analyst certifying that one was deficient in fat to the extent of 10%, and the other giving an abnormal result suggesting that it consisted of either badly reconstituted milk or of heavily watered raw milk. Consultations took place with the firm who supplied the milk. No further complaint has been received.

(b) *Meat Inspection.*—Slaughtering of food animals for consumption in this area is still centralised at premises outside the district, nevertheless we continue periodically to visit meat shops and meat vans. During the year it was necessary to condemn the following food stuffs:—380lbs. of pork offal, 2,154lbs. of rolled oats, 185lbs. of beef, 56lbs. of smoked bacon, 35lbs. fish (hake), 31lbs. of margarine, 12lbs. of cooked ham, 140lbs. of flour, 51lbs. (4 tins) of ham, 14 tins of beans, 6 tins of milk, 1 tin of soup, 2 tins of marmalade, 1 tin of tomatoes, 2 tins of stewed steak, 1 tin of soup, 2 tins of marmalade, 1 tin of tomatoes, 2 tins of stewed steak, 1 tin of pork sausage, 3 tins of lambs tongues, 36 jars of pickles, 3 packets of wheat flakes, and 18 dozen of eggs and 3 tins of fish.

Bakehouses.—As in previous years the bakehouses have been reasonably maintained with the exception of one bakehouse to which our attention was drawn by H.M. Inspector of Factories. This was immediately remedied. The trouble was due to the fact that the baker was supplying 20 forces camps and was short of staff. Half-yearly reminders are posted to bakers with regard to cleanliness.

VI. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Incidence of Commoner Infectious Diseases since 1937.

		Smallpox	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Pneumonia	Encephalitis Lethargica.	Puerperal Pyrexia.
1938	...	—	8	27	—	35	—	2
1939	...	—	14	43	—	23	—	3
1940	...	—	21	44	1	24	—	2
1941	...	—	7	30	2	25	—	2
1942	...	—	2	17	—	17	—	7
1943	...	—	3	33	—	13	—	1
1944	...	—	6	19	—	27	—	—
1945	...	—	1	19	—	8	—	—

Reference to Table III. will give the age distribution of the cases notified during 1945.

Diphtheria.—There was only 1 case notified, in an adult who had not been immunised. This is the lowest figure for very many years.

Diphtheria Immunisation.—The campaign for the immunisation of school children commenced in 1941, and up to the end of 1945, 1,865 children had been treated in the schools and 708 either privately or at Infant Welfare Centres, making a total of 2,573.

Scarlet Fever.—The 19 cases were distributed throughout the District.

School Closures.—Nil.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, TUBERCULOSIS.

AGE—PERIODS			NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
			Non-				Non-			
			Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	...	...	—	—	...	—	—	...	1
1	...	...	...	—	—	...	2	—	...	1
5	...	...	...	1	—	...	—	—	...	—
15	...	...	...	1	6	...	—	—	...	—
25	...	...	...	2	4	...	—	—	...	—
35	...	...	...	3	—	...	—	—	...	—
45	...	...	...	1	—	...	—	—	...	—
55	...	...	...	3	—	...	—	—	...	—
65 and upwards	...	...	...	1	—	...	—	—	...	1
TOTALS			...	12	10	...	2	0	...	14

INCIDENCE OF TUBERCULOSIS, 1926-1945.

	1926	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45
Oases	26	27	21	22	17	37	21	16	23	20	21	23	33	14	5	40	27	27	20	24
Deaths....	19	21	19	15	11	16	8	6	9	7	8	8	16	7	9	8	10	10	9	18

Treatment.—16 cases were admitted to Sanatorium during the year, and 17 were discharged.

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

A copy of this Report has been received and kept for reference.

The summary of work done will be found in Table I

TABLE I.

RUGBY RURAL DISTRICT.

SUMMARY OF THE WORK DONE IN THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S
DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR 1945.

			Inspections and Re-visits	Notices served.		Nuisances Abated
				Statu- tory.	In- formal.	
Dwelling Houses and Schools	...		1311	—	126	203
Roadside Cafes and Shops	...		71	—	—	—
Cowsheds and Dairies	...		310	—	149	367
Bakehouses	...		38	—	29	29
Slaughter Houses	...		67	—	—	—
Sampling Visits (Milk, Foods)	...		9	—	—	—
Milk Samples	...		4	—	—	—
Interviews and Appointments	...		382	—	—	—
Water Samples and Visits	...		215	6	—	—
Watercourses	...		66	—	7	—
Factories and Workplaces	...		37	—	—	—
Special Visits	...		160	—	—	—
Stables and Piggeries	...		2	—	—	—
Refuse Tips (Rats and Mice), &c....	...		34	—	—	—
Complaints ..	...		41	—	14	14
Moveable Dwellings	...		3	—	—	—
Infectious Disease Visits	...		82	—	—	—
Houses Disinfected	...		50	—	—	—
Verminous Houses	...		26	—	6	6
Petroleum Visits	...		26	—	2	—
Knacker Yards	...		1	—	—	—
Closet Accommodation	...		73	1	36	48
Water Closet (Conversion)	...		—	—	—	36
Additions	...		—	—	—	4
Drainage, Cesspool, &c.	...		160	1	29	47
Dustbins	...		1	1	21	32
Accumulations	...		2	—	3	11
TOTALS	...		3,171	9	422	797

Surrenders of Unwholesome Foods :—

Tins (Various) Foods	...	...	...	...	32
Pork Offal	...	...	...	...	380lbs.
Beef	...	...	...	...	185lbs.
Smoked Bacon	...	...	...	...	56lbs.
Cooked Ham	...	...	...	...	12lbs.
Fish	...	...	...	...	35lbs.
Rolled Oats	...	...	...	...	2154lbs.
Margarine	...	...	...	...	31lbs.
Flour	...	...	...	...	140lbs.
Pickles	...	...	...	...	36 jars
Wheat Flakes	...	...	...	...	3 packets
Irish Eggs	...	...	...	...	18 doz.

LESLIE R. NUTTING, Chief Sanitary Inspector.

TABLE II
RUGBY RURAL DISTRICT.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1945 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Nett.		Under 1 Year of age.		At all Ages.	
		Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1939	15,870	232	15.1	9	39	184	11.6
1940	16,520	209	12.6	12	56	197	11.9
1941	17,910	297	16.5	15	48	214	12.0
1942	17,560	302	17.2	13	43	179	10.2
1943	17,090	316	18.5	19	60	194	11.4
1944	17,290	355	20.6	10	28	211	12.2
1945	16,920	303	18.0	10	33	189	11.2

VITAL STATISTICS IN ENGLAND AND WALES, 1945.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

*Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Infantile Mortality during the Year 1945.
(Provisional Figures).*

Annual Rate per 1,000 Population.

				Live Births	Still Births.	Deaths.	Deaths under one year to 1,000 Births.
England and Wales	...	...	16.1	0.46	11.4	46	
126 Great Towns, including London			19.1	0.58	13.5	54	
148 Smaller Towns	...	...	19.2	0.53	12.3	43	
London	...	...	15.7	0.40	13 8	53	

TABLE III.

RUGBY RURAL DISTRICT.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE
YEAR 1945.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Number of Cases notified.								Total cases removed to Hospital	Total Deaths.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.								
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and upwards.		
Small-pox										
Plague										
Diphtheria (including Mem- branous Croup)	1					1			1	
Erysipelas	4						3	1		
Scarlet Fever	19		9	10					13	
Typhus Fever										
Enteric Fever										
Pneumonia	8	1	1		2	1	3			5
Malaria	3					3				
Dysentery	1				1					
Puerperal Pyrexia										
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis										
Poliomyelitis										
Encephalitis Lethargica										
Ophthalmia Neonatorum										
Polio-Encephalitis										
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	22			1	7	9	4	1		14
Other forms of Tuberculosis	2		2							4
Totals	60	1	12	11	11	14	10	2	14	23

TABLE IV
RUGBY RURAL DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1945.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	MALES.	FEMALES.
All Causes	109	80
1 Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...	—	—
2 Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—
3 Scarlet Fever	—	—
4 Whooping Cough	1	—
5 Diphtheria	—	—
6 Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	13	1
7 Other Forms of Tuberculosis	3	1
8 Syphilitic Diseases	1	—
9 Influenza	—	1
10 Measles	—	—
11 Ac. Polio-Myel and Polio-Enceph. ...	—	—
12 Ac. Infant Enceph.	—	—
13 Cancer of B. Cav. and Oesoph (M.) Uterus (F.)	1	2
14 Cancer of Stomach and Duod.	3	1
15 Cancer of Breast	—	2
16 Cancer, other Sites	13	7
17 Diabetes	—	1
18 Intra Cran. Vasc. Lesions... ..	11	13
19 Heart Disease	22	16
20 Other Dis. Circ. Sys.	5	1
21 Bronchitis	6	4
22 Pneumonia	—	5
23 Other Resp. Diseases	3	1
24 Ulcer of Stomach and Duod.	1	—
25 Diarrhoea (under 2 years)... ..	1	—
26 Appendicitis	—	—
27 Other Digestive Diseases	—	2
28 Nephritis	1	2
29 Puer. and Post Abort Sepsis	—	—
30 Other Maternal Causes	—	—
31 Premature Birth	—	1
32 Con. Mal., Birth Inj., etc.... ..	5	1
33 Suicide	—	1
34 Road Traffic Accidents	2	2
35 Other Violent Causes	1	2
36 All Other Causes	16	13

